

**Amendments to the Claims:**

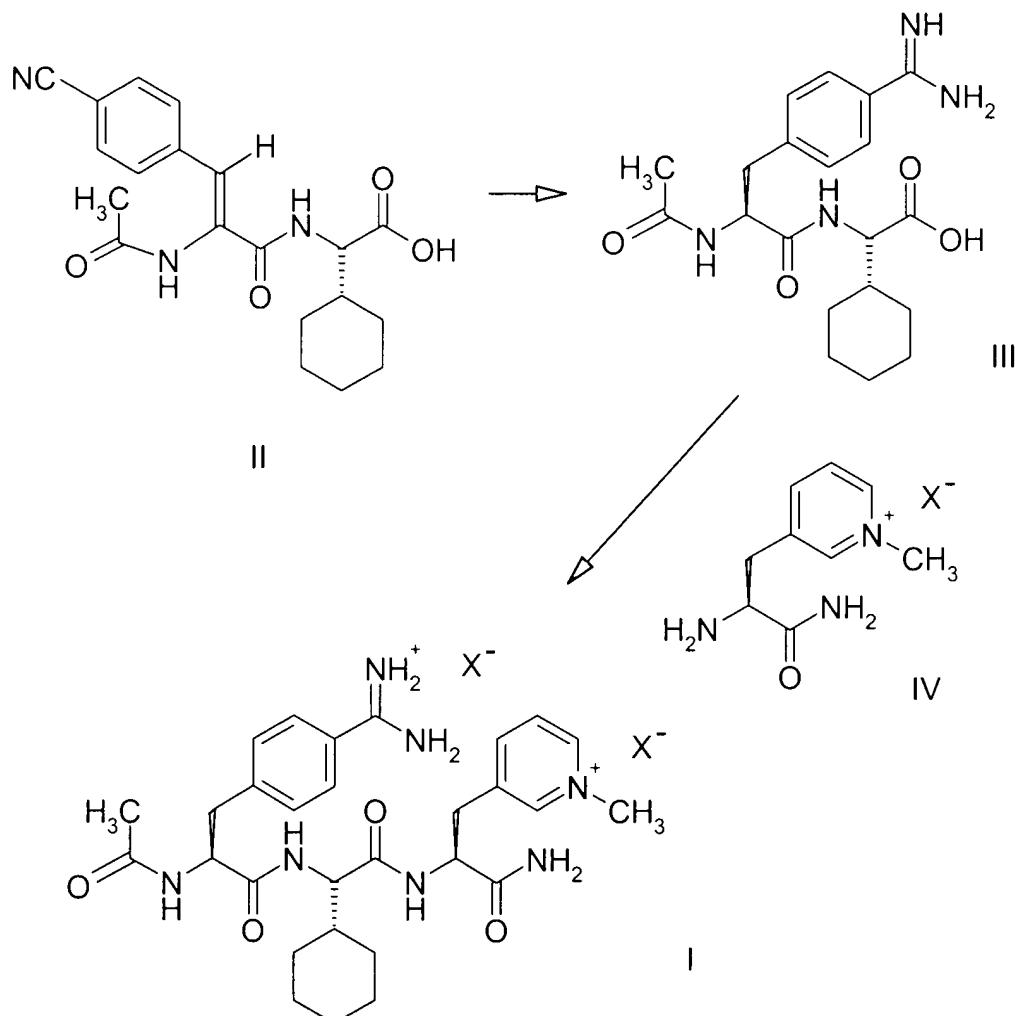
Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the version that follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, which comprises:

(a) converting a compound of the formula II into a compound of the formula III or its salt with an acid HX, said converting comprises catalytic hydrogenation of the olefinic group and conversion of the cyano group into an amidino group to yield the compound of formula III or its salt with the acid HX, and

(b) ~~followed by~~ reacting the compound of the formula III or its salt with the acid HX with a compound of the formula IV or its salt with the acid HX to give yield a compound of the formula I,

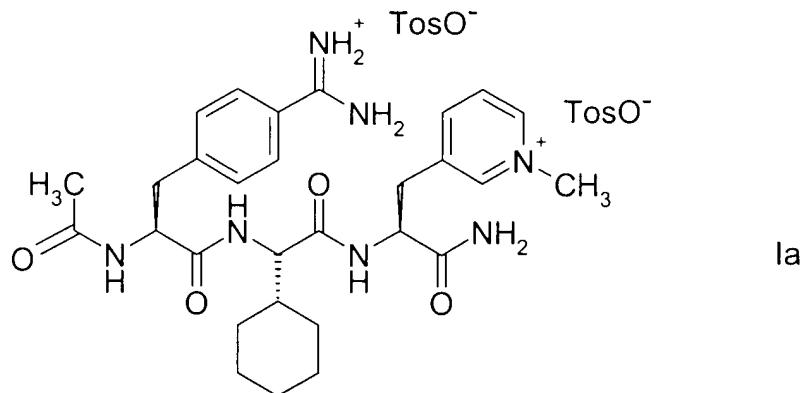
wherein the anions X<sup>-</sup> of the formulae I and IV and of the acid HX are physiologically acceptable anions, and are identical or different



2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anions  $X^-$  of the formulae I and IV and of the acid HX are identical.
3. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, which comprises employing in the catalytic hydrogenation a catalyst, the catalyst comprising a chiral rhodium(I) complex.
4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the chiral rhodium(I) complex [[is]] comprises a rhodium(I)-(+)-(2R,4R)-1-tert-butyloxycarbonyl-4-diphenylphosphino-2-(diphenylphosphinomethyl)pyrrolidine complex.

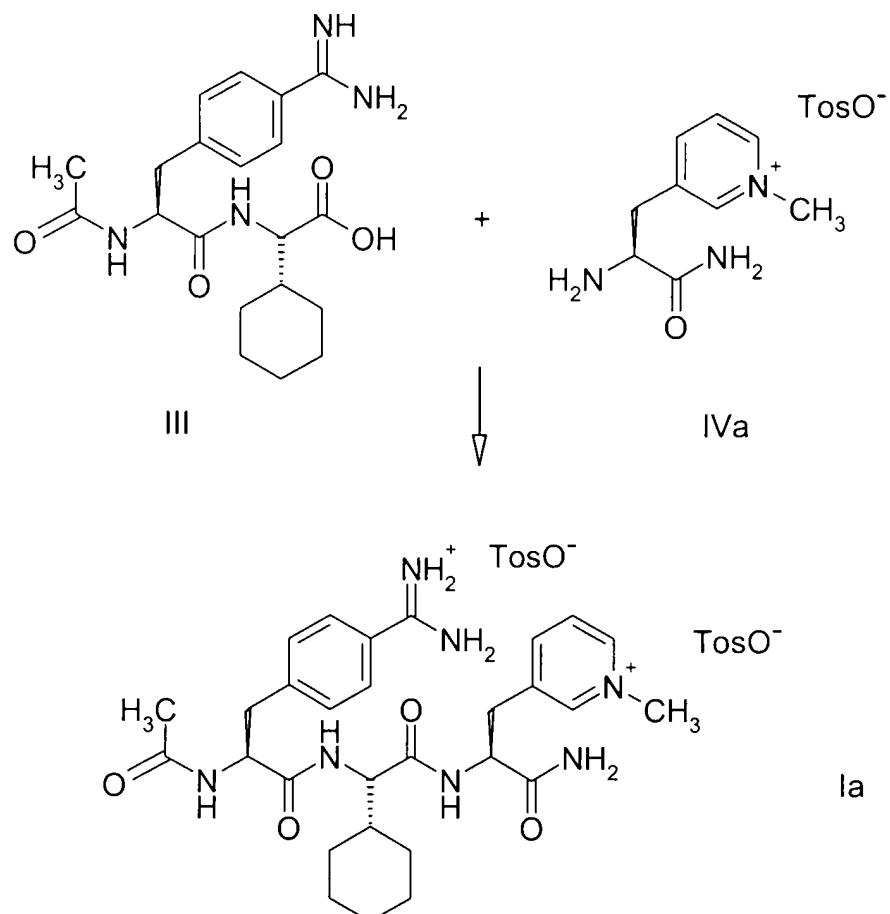
5. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the conversion of the cyano group into the amidino group comprises reacting the cyano group with hydroxylamine or an hydroxylammonium salt to yield a resulting N-hydroxyamidine, and hydrogenolysing the resulting N-hydroxyamidine.
6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the said reacting of the compounds of the formulae III and IV or of salts thereof~~ is carried out in the presence of a carbodiimide.
7. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the said reacting of the compounds of the formulae III and IV or of salts thereof~~ is carried out in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 3-hydroxy-4-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1,2,3-benzotriazine.
8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in the said reacting of the compounds of the formulae III and IV or the salts thereof~~, the compound of the formula IV is employed in the form of its salt with the acid HX, and the compound of the formula III is employed as such in free form.
9. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anions X<sup>-</sup> of the formulae I and IV and of the acid HX are toluene-4-sulfonate.

10. (Original) The compound of the formula Ia in which the anion  $\text{TosO}^-$  is toluene-4-sulfonate



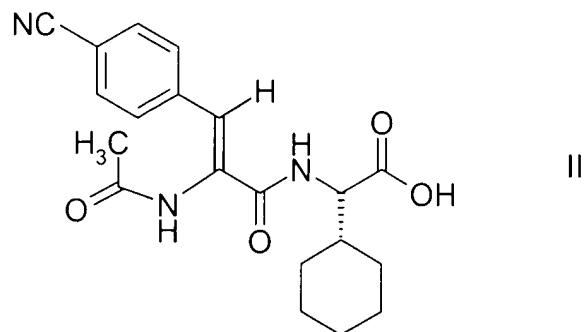
11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of the formula Ia in which the anion  $\text{TosO}^-$  is toluene-4-sulfonate, which process comprises:

reacting a compound of the formula III or the toluene-4-sulfonic acid salt thereof with a compound of the formula IVa or the toluene-4-sulfonic acid salt thereof to give yield the compound of the formula Ia

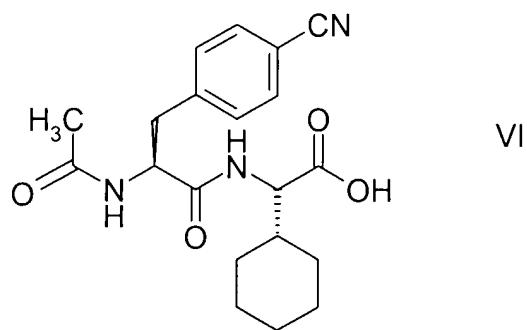


12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the compound of the formula IVa is employed in the form of its salt with toluene-4-sulfonic acid and the compound of the formula III is employed as such in free form, and the reacting is carried out in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 3-hydroxy-4-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1,2,3-benzotriazine.

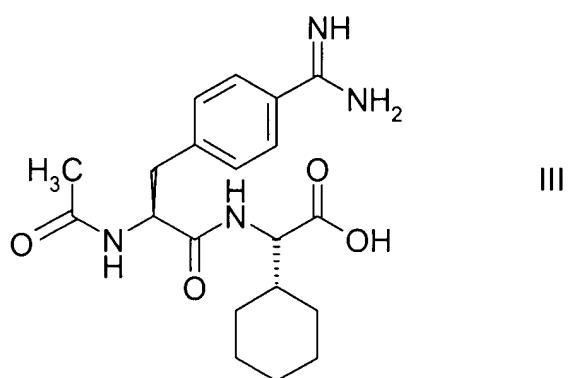
13. (Original) A compound of the formula II or a salt thereof



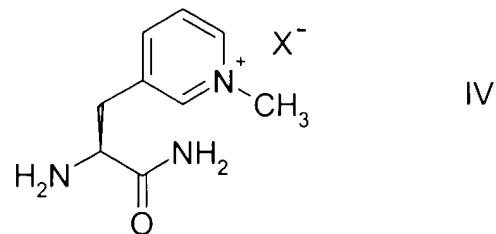
14. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula VI or a salt thereof



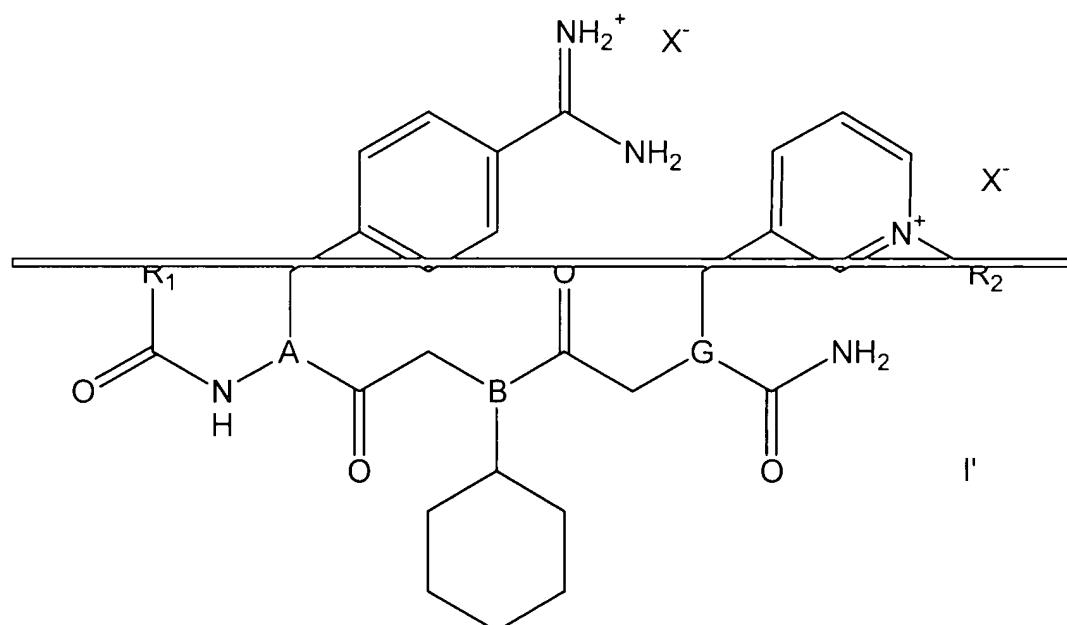
15. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula III or a salt thereof

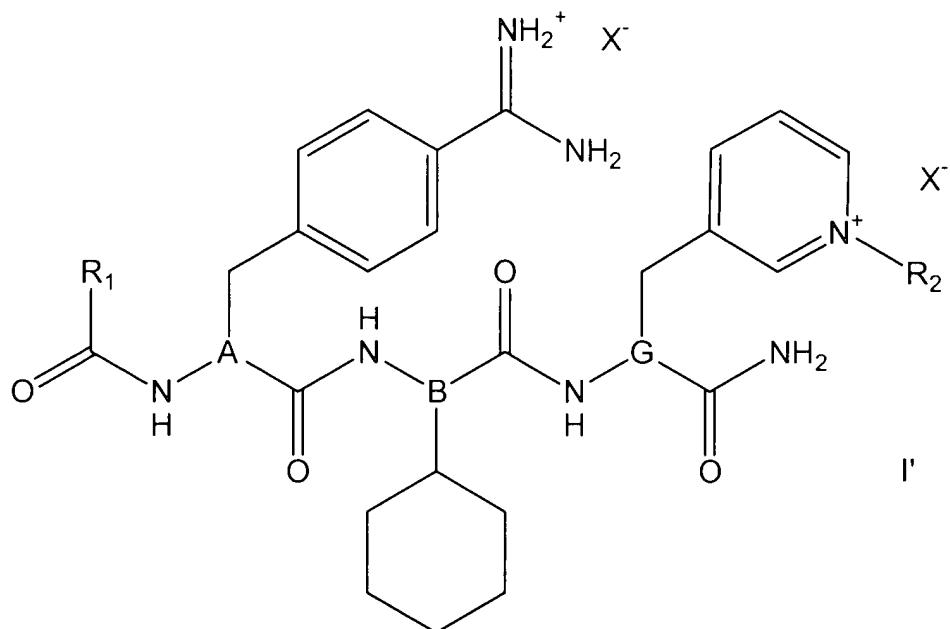


16. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula IV where the anion  $X^-$  is a physiologically acceptable anion, or a salt thereof



17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula I':





wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

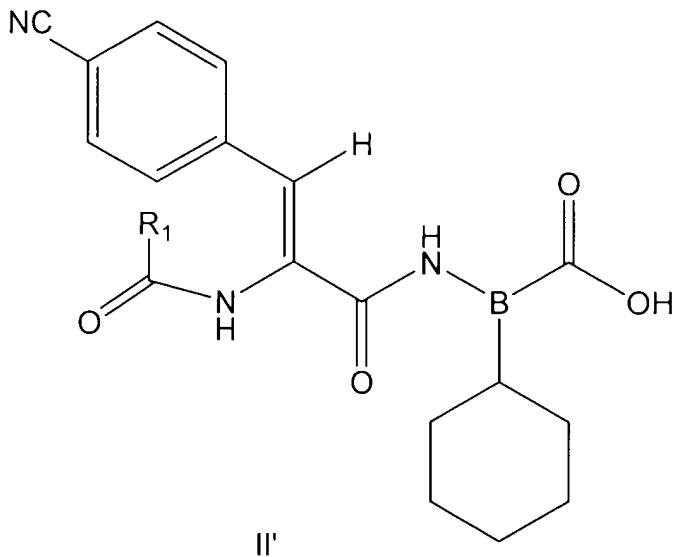
A is CH in the R or S configuration;

B is CH in the R or S configuration; and

G is CH in the R or S configuration,

the process comprising:

(a) converting a compound of the formula II' into a compound of the formula III' or its salt with an acid HX, the compound of the formula II' having the structure:

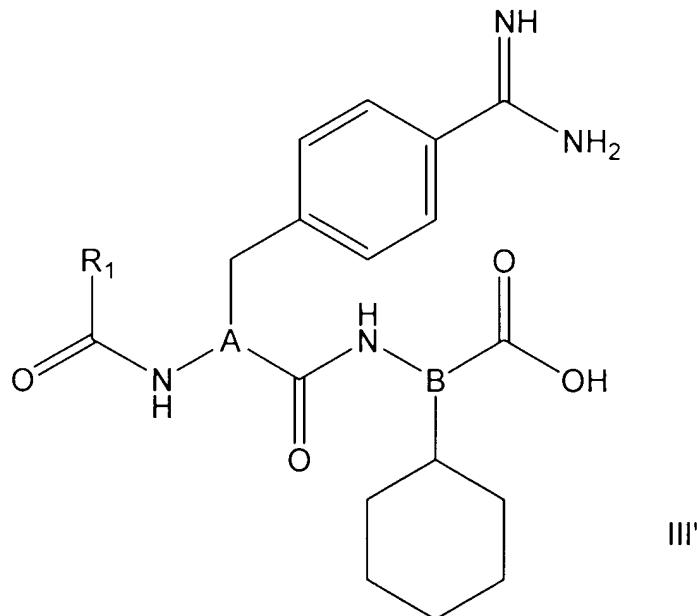


wherein

$R_1$  and  $B$  have the same meanings as in the formula I',

said converting comprises catalytic hydrogenation of the olefinic group and conversion of the cyano group into an amidino group to yield the compound of the formula III' or its salt with an acid HX;

the compound of the formula III' having the structure:

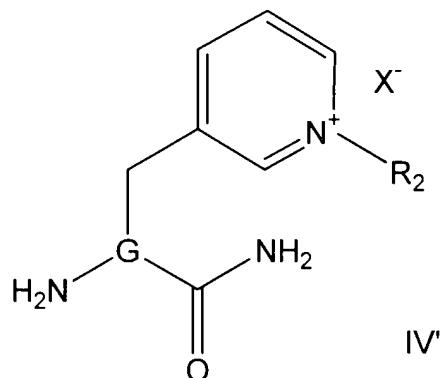


wherein

R<sub>1</sub>, A, and B have the same meanings as in the formula I';

and

(b) followed by reacting the compound of the formula III' or its salt with the acid HX with a compound of the formula IV' or its salt with the acid HX:



wherein

R<sub>2</sub> and G have the same meanings as in the formula I',

to give yield a compound of the formula I',

wherein the anions X<sup>-</sup> of the formulae I' and IV' and of the acid HX are physiologically acceptable anions, and are identical or different.